

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A process for one-stage preparation of polyoxyalkylene glycols by copolymerizing tetrahydrofuran and alpha, omega-diols in the presence of a heteropolyacid and of a hydrocarbon, which comprises distilling water in a mixture with this hydrocarbon out of the copolymerization.
2. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon having from 6 to 12 carbon atoms or a mixture thereof is used.
3. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the hydrocarbon used is pentane.
4. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein tetrahydrofuran is distilled off at the same time.
5. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the mixture of hydrocarbon, water and optionally tetrahydrofuran are distilled at from 40 to 120°C and a pressure of from 150 mbar to 2 bar.
6. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon or the hydrocarbon/tetrahydrofuran mixture is recycled after drying.
7. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, which can be carried out continuously or batchwise.
8. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the alpha, omega-diol used is neopentyl glycol.
9. (New) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon used is pentane.
10. (New) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein tetrahydrofuran is distilled off at the same time.

11. (New) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein tetrahydrofuran is distilled off at the same time.

12. (New) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the mixture of hydrocarbon, water and optionally tetrahydrofuran are distilled at from 40 to 120°C and a pressure of from 150 mbar to 2 bar.

13. (New) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the mixture of hydrocarbon, water and optionally tetrahydrofuran are distilled at from 40 to 120°C and a pressure of from 150 mbar to 2 bar.

14. (New) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the mixture of hydrocarbon, water and optionally tetrahydrofuran are distilled at from 40 to 120°C and a pressure of from 150 mbar to 2 bar.

15. (New) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon or the hydrocarbon/tetrahydrofuran mixture is recycled after drying.

16. (New) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the hydrocarbon or the hydrocarbon/tetrahydrofuran mixture is recycled after drying.

17. (New) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the hydrocarbon or the hydrocarbon/tetrahydrofuran mixture is recycled after drying.

18. (New) A process as claimed in claims 5, wherein the hydrocarbon or the hydrocarbon/tetrahydrofuran mixture is recycled after drying.

19. (New) A process as claimed in claim 2, which can be carried out continuously or batchwise.

20. (New) A process as claimed in claim 3, which can be carried out continuously or batchwise.